

dietary intake of pregnant and postpartum women, improving their weight gain.

For infants, WIC prenatal benefits reduce low and very low birth weights. WIC lowers infant mortality rate by 25 percent among participating Medicaid beneficiaries.

For children, WIC participation leads to higher rates of immunization against childhood diseases. The immunization rate in Pasco County, FL, is almost 100 percent and this rate is attributed to the WIC Program. WIC also reduces anemia among children.

WIC children are more ready to learn as compared to those children not in WIC. Four- and five-year-olds participating in WIC have better vocabularies and digit memory scores than children not participating in WIC.

Numerous studies have shown that WIC is not only a successful prevention program, it is cost effective. WIC is a Government program that actually saves money.

Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces between \$2 to \$4 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. In 1992, WIC benefits averted \$853 million in health expenditures during the first year of life of infants.

WIC should be a model for entrepreneurial government. In 1994, \$1.1 billion in rebate revenue was generated from the manufacturers of infant formula, allowing 1.5 million more participants to be served. Local WIC agencies coordinate their services with other health and social service programs as needed. By coordinating these services, the WIC Program is able to reduce the number of bureaucracies a family must deal with. H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act, currently includes the WIC Program in a nutrition block grant. I am concerned that if WIC is included in this block grant, the program will lose critical components that make it a success today.

In closing, I would like to include as a part of this statement a letter I received from one of my constituents, Clara Lawhead, who is the director of the Pasco County, FL, WIC Program.

A partial quote from that letter says:

WIC is helping us to shape our future by helping to produce healthier children. WIC is not only vital to maintaining and improving our current health as a nation, but will be absolutely instrumental in creating a healthy population for the next century.

I have seen what the WIC Program can do for children and their mothers. We must make sure our reform efforts do not erode the ability of a proven program like WIC to provide essential services to women and children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to very carefully review proposals that reform our Nation's nutrition programs as we craft final welfare reform legislation.

The letter referred to follows:

ODESSA, FL, January 31, 1995.

Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKIS: Recent legislative proposals threaten the survival of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC. WIC provides access to maternal, prenatal and pediatric health care services for a targeted high risk population. It is a prevention program designed to influence a lifetime of good nutrition and health behaviors. WIC provides quality nutrition education and services, breastfeeding promotion and education and food prescriptions to qualified participants. WIC is administered through area health agencies and coordinates services with other maternal and child health care. More than 70 evaluation studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of WIC and proven medical, health and nutrition successes for women, infants and children.

WIC has proven its cost effectiveness in the past and will continue to present the public with cost savings in the future, unless this legislation, which would severely limit the WIC Program, is passed. Because of the WIC Program, for example, Medicaid costs were reduced on average from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per infant for very low birthweight prevented. In 1990, the federal government spent \$296 million on prenatal WIC benefits, averting \$853 million in health expenditures during the first year of life. Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid savings for new borns and their mother. These are incredible examples of the savings that the WIC Program brings to our country each year.

Even more important to the American public than the cost savings are the incredible improvements to the health of our infants and children. Infant mortality during the first 28 days was reduced with WIC participation in four out of five states. The infant mortality rate has been reduced by 25% to 66% among Medicaid beneficiaries participating in WIC. WIC significantly improves breastfeeding rates, immunization rates of children and children's diets. WIC reduces the rates of anemia among children. Four and five year olds participating in WIC in early childhood have better vocabularies and digit memory scores than children not participating in WIC. WIC is helping us to shape our future, by helping to produce healthier children. WIC is not only vital to maintaining and improving our current health as a nation, but will be absolutely instrumental in creating a healthy population for the next century, unless this legislation is allowed to pass with WIC included.

Congressman Bilirakis, it would be in the best interest of all Americans, both young and old, if the proposed legislation, called the "Personal Responsibility Act" and a "Medicaid Swap" were not allowed to be approved, with WIC included, by the United States Congress. Unlike most of the institutions mentioned in these pieces of legislation, the WIC program is not a welfare program, rather a supplemental nutrition program. The participants of WIC include middle class Americans, a part of society which can ill afford more benefits removed from their grasp. Americans across our great country hope that you and the other members of Congress will have the insight and knowledge to defeat the inclusion of WIC in the proposed legislation.

Sincerely, your friend and ally,

CLARA H. LAWHEAD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

UNITED STATES-CHINA SATELLITE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise questions about the Clinton administration's recent initialing of a trade agreement with the Government of China regarding commercial space launch services.

Commercial space is a growing industry right here in the United States of America. It is an industry with tremendous potential for creating jobs and stimulating local economies. It is also an industry where America is in danger of falling further behind our international competitors.

The original 5-year agreement between the United States and China expired on December 31, 1994. The new agreement expands the number of Chinese launches for international customers to geosynchronous Earth orbit [GEO] through 2001 and requires that Chinese launch prices be on a par with Western launch providers. According to an official with the U.S. Trade Representatives's Office, on a par essentially means that the Chinese can offer a price up to 15 percent lower than the going international rate.

In the initialed agreement, the administration has also established disciplines for satellite launches into low Earth orbit and detailed conditions under which increases in quantitative limit may occur to address shortages in the supply of launch services for U.S. satellite services and users.

The agreement was also initialed 1 week after the explosion of a Chinese March 2E rocket that destroyed a \$160 million Apstar-2 satellite.

What does all this mean? As I'm sure the administration knows, the United States has a burgeoning commercial space market that holds tremendous potential for the U.S. economy. As I indicated on the floor February 3, the French already control roughly 60 percent of the commercial space market. Others, most notably the Chinese and the Russians are closing in fast.

Where the United States has its best opportunity to take the lead in commercial space is in the newly emerging low Earth orbit satellite market. I am concerned by the administration's seeming desire to turn this market over to the Chinese. Ambassador Kantor believes that this agreement carefully balances the interests of the U.S. space launch, satellite, and telecommunications industries.

Mr. Speaker, I disagree with Mr. Kantor's assessment.